

Meeting Date: November 6, 2008

Agenda Item No. 20

Agenda Item: Report on Leftover Tag Allocation Process

Approved by: _____

Prepared by: Brad Compton

Background:

Prior to 2004, the Department used a first-come, first-served process for issuing leftover deer, elk, pronghorn, and fall bear controlled hunt permits. Almost all leftover controlled hunt permits were for low demand hunts, minimizing problems with a first-come, first-served allocation process. Leftover controlled hunt permits did not include unclaimed permits, which annually numbered several hundred statewide including numerous high-demand permits.

In 2003, the Commission adopted rules requiring successful applicants to claim their controlled hunt permit by August 20 to provide opportunity for sportsmen which historically had been lost because of unclaimed permits. Because of numerous high-demand permits being unclaimed and available in 2003, the first-come, first-served allocation process was problematic (congestion at vendors and reported vendor abuses).

In 2004, the Commission established a second drawing to issue unclaimed and leftover controlled hunt deer, elk, pronghorn, and fall bear permits. The second drawing process required a change in when successful applicants from the first drawing needed to pick up their permits (to August 1). Currently, successful applicants from the second drawing are notified no later than August 25. Any leftover controlled hunt deer, elk, pronghorn, and fall bear permits following the second drawing are issued first-come, first-served.

Some deer (5) and elk (9) controlled hunts begin prior to the second drawing being completed. All of these early opening controlled deer hunts extend until at least September 24. However, 2 of the early opening controlled elk hunts close on August 29, with the remainder remaining open until at least September 15.

Additionally, a couple of recurring comments from sportsmen regarding the second drawing process have arisen since 2004, including: 1) having to submit another application fee, even if entered into the first drawing for the same hunt; and 2) allowing people who didn't enter the first drawing to compete with those who did and are applying again.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Commission administrative rule 13.01.08.260 regulates allocation of controlled hunt permits.

Public Involvement Process:

None.

Staff Recommendation:

None. This agenda item is to provide an update to the Commission on the existing leftover controlled hunt permit allocation process. Additionally, staff will discuss other options and seek direction from the Commission for any potential changes to be considered during the July 2009 Commission meeting. Any changes to the allocation process could be implemented in 2010.

Justification:

Information only.